GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1350
ANSWERED ON:10.12.2003
CRITERIA FOR BELOW POVERTY LINE
HARIBHAI PARTHIBHAI CHAUDHARY;LAXMAN GILUWA

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the criteria for determining the Poverty Line have recently been revised;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the State-wise details of the estimated number and percentage of the rural and urban population living below the poverty line?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS & PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI S. B. MOOKHERJEE)

(a) & (b): No, Sir. The criteria for determining poverty line was originally recommended bya `Task Force on Minimum Needs and Effective Consumption Demand` in 1979. The TaskForce defined poverty line as the per capita expenditure level at which the average per capita per day calorie intake was 2400 kcal in rural areas and 2100 kcal in urban areas. The monetary equivalent of these norms were calculated as monthly per capita consumption expenditure of Rs. 49.09 in rural areas and Rs. 56.64 inurban areas for 1973-74. Then, in1993, the `Expert Group on Estimation of Proportion and Number of Poor` recommendeddisaggregation of these national poverty lines into state specific poverty lines using state specific price indices and inter-state price differential. The full Planning Commission underthe Chairmanship of Prime Minister accepted the recommendations of the Expert Group with minor modifications in March, 1997. Since then the estimates of poverty at national and state level are being made using the Expert Group methodology.

(c): The Planning Commission estimates poverty at national and state level from the largesample surveys on household consumer expenditure conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) at an interval of approximately five year.The latest such survey was conducted in 1999-2000 (NSS 55th round).The number and percentage of population living below poverty line, separately for rural and urban areas, for the year 1999- 2000 are given in Annexure − I.

ANNEXURE - I

Number and Percentage of Population Living Below Poverty Line by States - 1999-2000

		Rural		Urban		Combined	
No.	States/U.T.`s	No. of Persons (Lakhs)	% of Persons	No. of Persons (Lakhs)	% of Persons	No. of Persons (Lakhs)	% of Persons
1.	Andhra Pradesh	58.13	11.05	60.88	26.63	119.01	15.77
2.	Arunachal Pr.	3.80	40.04	0.18	7.47	3.98	33.47
3.	Assam	92.17	40.04	2.38	7.47	94.55	36.09
4.	Bihar	376.51	44.30	49.13	32.91	425.64	42.60
5.	Goa	0.11	1.35	0.59	7.52	0.70	4.40
6.	Gujarat	39.80	13.17	28.09	15.59	67.89	14.07
7	Haryana	11.94	8.27	5.39	9.99	17.34	8.74

8. Himachal Pr.	4.84	7.94	0.29	4.63	5.12	7.63
9. Jammu & Kashmir	2.97	3.97	0.49	1.98	3.46	3.48
10. Karnataka	59.91	17.38	44.49	25.25	104.40	20.04
11. Kerala	20.97	9.38	20.07	20.27	41.04	12.72
12. Madhya Pradesh	217.32	37.06	81.22	38.44	298.54	37.43
13. Maharashtra	125.12	23.72	102.87	26.81	227.99	25.02
14. Manipur	6.53	40.04	0.66	7.47	7.19	28.54
15. Meghalaya	7.89	40.04	0.34	7.47	8.23	33.87
16. Mizoram	1.40	40.04	0.45	7.47	1.85	19.47
17. Nagaland	5.21	40.04	0.28	7.47	5.49	32.67
18. Orissa	143.69	48.01	25.40	42.83	169.09	47.15
19. Punjab	10.20	6.35	4.29	5.75	14.49	6.16
20. Rajasthan	55.06	13.74	26.78	19.85	81.83	15.28
21. Sikkim	2.00	40.04	0.04	7.47	2.05	36.55
22. Tamil Nadu	80.51	20.55	49.97	22.11	130.48	21.12
23. Tripura	12.53	40.04	0.49	7.47	13.02	34.44
24. Uttar Pradesh	412.01	31.22	117.88	30.89	529.89	31.15
25. West Bengal	180.11	31.85	33.38	14.86	213.49	27.02
26. A & N Island	0.58	20.55	0.24	22.11	0.82	20.99
27. Chandigarh	0.06	5.75	0.45	5.75	0.51	5.75
28. Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0.30	17.57	0.03	13.52	0.33	17.14
29. Daman & Diu	0.01	1.35	0.05	7.52	0.06	4.44
30. Delhi	0.07	0.40	11.42	9.42	11.49	8.23
31. Lakshadweep	0.03	9.38	0.08	20.27	0.11	15.60
32. Pondicherry	0.64	20.55	1.77	22.11	2.41	21.67
All India	1932.43	27.09	670.07	23.62	2602.50	26.10

Notes:-

1. Poverty Ratio of Assam is used for Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh,Meghalaya, Mizoram,Manipur,Nagaland and Tripura.

2. Poverty Line of Maharashtra and expenditure distribution of Goa is used to estimate poverty ratio of Goa.

3. Poverty Line of Himachal Pradesh and expenditure distribution of Jammu & Kashmir is used to estimate poverty ratio of Jammu & Kashmir.

4. Poverty Ratio of Tamil Nadu is used for Pondicherry and A & N Island.

5. Urban Poverty Ratio of Punjab used for both rural and urban poverty of Chandigarh.

6. Poverty Line of Maharashtra and expenditure distribution of Dadra & Nagar Haveli is used to estimate poverty ratio of Dadra & Nagar Haveli.

7 Poverty Ratio of Goa is used for Daman & Diu.

8. Poverty Ratio of Kerala is used for Lakshadweep.

9. Urban Poverty Ratio of Rajasthan may be treated as tentative.